



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00756

Agenda Date: [Publish Date]

Agenda Item Name:

Food System Workforce Development Program Mid-Project Update

Presenter:

Shelby Dixon, Executive Director, Working Food, Inc.

Sean McLendon, Economic Development & Food System Manager, 352-548-3765

Description:

The Board authorized the use of Revenue Recovery funds to implement a food system workforce development and jobs pipeline for disadvantaged communities. This agenda item brings back a mid-project presentation.

Recommended Action:

Hear presentation.

Prior Board Motions:

On December 6, 2022, Commissioner Cornell moved to approve the preliminary project plan for Food System Equity Program, and the budget amendment. Staff was directed to bring back an agreement with a nonprofit entity with the ability to meet the project plan requirements. 2nd Commissioner Chestnut. The motion carried 4-0.

On May 23, 2023, item 23-00109, the Board of County Commission (Board) approved the Budget Adjustments to American Rescue Plan – State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Revenue Recovery. The fiscal note clarifies that the remaining American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP – SLFRF) qualify as Revenue Recovery and thus are being reported as such use. The budget amendment transfers the remaining balance of all qualifying revenue recovery funds from the ARP – SLFRF Fund 234 to a sub fund of the General Fund, Fund 052. All remaining balances of projects identified and allocated by the Board will remain funded and in process out of Fund 052. This action makes NO changes to the plan approved by the Board, just in the way funds are accounted.

On August 8, 2023, Commissioner Cornell moved to approve the agreement with Working Food, Inc. and authorize Chair to sign the agreement. 2nd Commissioner Alford. The motion carried 5-0.

Fiscal Note:

This project will be funded for two years for a total of \$250,000 from set aside funds 052.00.0064.564.82.53 ARP2021x015. Purchases of supplies or services from a non-profit organization or charitable youth organization made in accordance with § 255.60, Florida Statutes.

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic and its disproportionate impact on marginalized and low-income communities, the County Commission established a two-year program to address Food System issues. Disadvantaged communities in urban and rural areas face income, food security, and food accessibility problems without the additional burden of a global pandemic. This program works with youth to develop culinary skills and certifications in an exciting curriculum about where food comes from and how to prepare and present it in exceptional ways. This program also engages with parents and provides nutritional education to supplement the vocational training. Small farmers are also involved in the program, giving them access to certified kitchen space and providing training for food safety certifications to develop retail-ready value-added products from their farms. Food System Workforce Development and Jobs Pipeline is an opportunity to engage deeply with small farmers and the disadvantaged to build a community food system.